

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

For the Preserving History project, I interviewed my World Geography teacher, Coach Baley. Ryan Patrick Baley served in the U.S. Army as an E4 Specialist in the Infantry. He was gunner for a Bradley crew and also a driver for a first Sergeant. Baley also guarded the DM2 in South Korea. He accomplished his patriotic duty for our country. From this interview, I gained more of an appreciation towards those who serve and risk their lives for our country. This experience allowed me to realize that the soldiers that perform their duty have dedicated so much, so that our nation is ensured protection as well as having the principles we as citizens believe in set forward and fought for. Baley believes that, "the U.S. military organization is the greatest organization and only two have died for others: Jesus and the soldiers of the U.S.A." Hence, there is no other army in the world that resembles the U.S. Army; everyone who serves this patriotic duty deserves a great amount of appreciation from every United States citizen for each individual strength put forward for our country, the United States of America.—Ginu Scaria.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2010

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendment of 2010. More than 50 years ago, Americans throughout the Southwest took jobs mining and refining raw uranium. These individuals, looking to provide for their families and creating a stable future for their children, are an important part of the history of the 20th Century and the Cold War. Unfortunately, they were unknowingly endangering their own lives by working in poorly ventilated mine shafts with little to no protective equipment. After they left work, they returned home to their families where their clothes, covered in yellow cake uranium, were washed along with that of their loved ones.

Sadly, the pursuit of the American Dream ended with tragedy for many of the miners exposed to uranium. Many of them fell ill from the radiation they were exposed to at work in the mines. Some people who had never stepped foot in a mine fell victim to the same illnesses due to wind patterns that carried this dangerous source of energy. As these Americans mined for a resource vital to the Nation's security, too many of them made the ultimate sacrifice.

This Congress now has the opportunity to right this wrong. By extending the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to Americans exposed to radioactive uranium by wind patterns or after the current cutoff in 1971 or those with newly recognized conditions, we can finally come to terms with the dark legacy of America's nuclear policy. Too many RECA claims

by my constituents in New Mexico as well as by those throughout the Southwest and in Guam are denied by the government because they lacked documentation from decades before. This legislation makes it easier for people to access the compensation they deserve.

The Americans who worked in uranium mines were serving our Nation every day, but were unaware of the extreme danger they were in. It is time to recognize these heroes of the Cold War and provide them with fair and equitable compensation for their suffering. We can never fully compensate these Americans for what they have lost—there is no compensation for the loss of a loved one. More than 50 years later, too many of these Americans are no longer with us. We have ignored their plight for too long. It is time to correct this long overdue wrong for those still with us.

I encourage my colleagues to consider and support this legislation.

DR. HAROLD A. CARTER, SR.: A LEGACY OF PRINCIPLE AND FAITH

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and true leader—Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr.

His is a vision and a mission—grounded in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s—that has compelling importance for our Nation today.

More than a half-century ago, when Dr. Carter was still a young man in Selma, Alabama, Dr. Ralph Abernathy and, then, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., both offered Harold Carter his first opportunities to speak to their congregations as a newly ordained minister.

"I was a young college student and they wanted to give me a boost from the beginning," Dr. Carter observed in a 2005 article written by Mr. Sean Yoes of the Baltimore AFRO American.

Madam Speaker, it was a strong, inspiring and enduring "boost," indeed. This same visionary foundation has inspired Dr. Carter throughout his ministry—both in the mission to proclaim the Gospel to which he had been called and in the "Social Gospel" work of his faith.

This year, Dr. Carter celebrates 45 years as the principal shepherd of Baltimore's New Shiloh Baptist Church.

In his own words, he is above all "a God man," the primary trustee of his congregation's spiritual life.

Yet, at a time when our urban areas are in danger of crumbling under the stress of decades of disinvestment, Dr. Carter and his New Shiloh Congregation also offer the people of Baltimore both hope and a concrete plan for social and economic renewal.

A past leader of Baltimore's chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the local chapter of the Poor People's Campaign, Dr. Carter has readily acknowledged Dr. King's influence upon his vision for community renewal as an integral element of his New Shiloh ministry.

"I learned from him that we have to take responsibility for our condition, whatever that might be," Dr. Carter once observed. "People

in power do not concede anything to others freely, so we have to equip ourselves and do for ourselves based on the principles of unconditional love."

Aided by the strength and talents of his wonderful wife, the late Dr. Weptanamah Carter, his son and co-Pastor, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Jr., and a dedicated congregation that has grown to number in the thousands, New Shiloh is, indeed, equipping its community to move forward on empowering principles.

Every day, people from the neighborhood can find inspiration and opportunity in its beautiful church and Family Life Center, its School of Music, Theological Center, Child Development Center and other facilities.

These accomplishments of the congregation's "Social Gospel" mission are important aspects of Dr. Carter's vision—but they are far from the end. Already underway are plans for technical training for the community, a Computer Center, a Senior Center and Senior Housing.

Madam Speaker, it is more appropriate, under our constitutional system, for me to leave it to others to commend Dr. Carter for the other wonderful ministers whom he has trained—including my own minister, Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr.

Others are better qualified than I to attest to the lasting importance of Dr. Carter's spiritual writings.

However, I have been honored to serve as a spokesman for the Congressional Black Caucus to our nation's faith communities—and, in that duty, I have gained a thorough understanding of "faith-based initiatives" that are working.

A part of what my teacher and friend, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., has taught me is that the inspiration for "faith-based" programs that work cannot be found in a strategy to transfer public responsibility for greater social equity to the faith centers of our country.

Rather, that motivating force must first arise from the hearts and minds of people of faith themselves.

This, I submit, is why Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., should stand as an example for all of our citizenry—whatever our respective faith traditions may be.

This, I believe, is what Dr. Carter means when he speaks of how our local communities must undertake greater responsibility for themselves and their neighbors—and how they must equip themselves for opportunity.

Unlike other "mega-churches" that have left the inner cities of our Nation, New Shiloh Baptist Church has followed Dr. Carter's vision for his congregation.

It has constructed its foundation on an unwavering commitment to the people of our urban community.

As we in government seek to construct a new and more comprehensive "national urban policy," we would do well to take note.

Dr. Carter and his congregation have invested millions of dollars in the New Shiloh Village and surrounding community.

"This is where the people are, and this is where the need is," he has observed. "The wave of Maryland's future development—and the nation's—lies in the [inner] cities."

Madam Speaker, for all of these reasons, I have come before you and this House today to commend to our Nation's attention the vision, wisdom and mission of an inspired man.

During his decades of service, Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr., has earned our Nation's praise for a lasting legacy of principle and faith.